

Groendyke House
Schalk Station, Middlesex County, New Jersey
NEAR PLAINSBORO

HABS-NJ-95

HABS
NJ
12-PLA 30.V.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
12-PLABOV
1-

Groendyke House
Schalk Station, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Owner: Walker-Gordon Laboratory Company

Date of Erection: Frame section before brick unit;
both before end of eighteenth
century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - fieldstone

Exterior walls - east
section frame construction;
west unit brick

Interior walls - plaster on
lath, partitions in ceiling
of second story of frame
unit cedar boards

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The present owner obtained possession of this house and ninety-one acres of land from Richard and Anna Groendyke in 1927. Richard obtained possession of sixty-three acres in 1905 from William Carmen, sheriff; in this action Catherine A. Groendyke was the defendant and Harry Perrine the complainant. Richard had bought land from John Kent in 1891; these two deeds account for the acreage in the present tract. In 1880 Van Dyke

Perrine as administrator of the estate of John S. Groendyke gave title for the sixty-three acres mentioned above to Catherine A. Groendyke. In 1853 the sons of an earlier Richard Groendyke, Samuel and John, divided the property of their father between them. John received seventy-five acres with the house of the survey and Samuel sixty-seven.

How Richard got possession of his farm is a puzzle. There is a will in Trenton bearing the date August 22, 1785 of one John Groendyke who describes himself as "of the southward of New Brunswick" of Middlesex County who gave his homestead to his sons Samuel and John. This might have been the grandfather of Richard. We have no description of this property. We have, however, a description that more or less seems to fit the present property of a transfer made on December 4, 1816 of one hundred and fifty-seven acres by Samuel Gulick to Richard Groendyke, but we have no record of how Gulick obtained possession. It may be that he was a son-in-law, for two daughters and two other sons are mentioned. We have called the structure the Groendyke House because of the fact that the Groendykes were in this locality, and that locally this is known as the Groendyke Homestead.

Bibliography:

A search of Middlesex County court records
by Frank P. Caufield, Essex County Office

A search of records in the Secretary of
State's Office by Robert M. Falcey, Mercer
County Office

Walter C. Rice
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

W 4/4/00